

ANNUAL REPORT

AS TO THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS

OF THE

Urban District of Diss

for the Year 1937.

By

G. O'B. VINCENT, M.R.C.S (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.),

Medical Officer of Health.

Printed by Diss Publishing Co., Ltd.,
"Express" Office, Diss, Norfolk.

ANNUAL REPORT
AS TO THE
SANITARY CONDITIONS
OF THE

Urban District of Diss

for the Year 1937.

By
G. O'B. VINCENT, M.R.C.S (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.),
Medical Officer of Health.

Printed by Diss Publishing Co., Ltd.,
"Express" Office, Diss, Norfolk.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
DISS URBAN COUNCIL.

URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS. — — COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

Area (in acres) 3,628 (including water).

Population:—

(a) Census, 1931	3,421
(b) Estimate of Resident Population, mid-1937 ...	3,318
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937)	1,020
Number of Void Houses (end of 1937)	6
Rateable Value	£14,935
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£59/5/8.05

LEGISLATION IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

General Adoptive Acts and Byelaws relating to the Public Health in force in the area:

1. Byelaws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures, used for human habitation, operative from 31st October, 1932.

2. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (53 and 54 Vict. c.59), Part 3, operative from 2nd July, 1924.

3. Byelaws with respect to New Streets and Buildings, operative from 6th August, 1924.

4. Byelaws with respect to Slaughterhouses—operative from 22nd January, 1925.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Owing to the reconditioning of several houses the social conditions have been somewhat improved, and compare favourably with other towns in agricultural districts. For various reasons there has been an increase in unemployment of a seasonal nature. There are no industries.

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL
AUTHORITY.**

Medical Officer of Health—G. O'B. VINCENT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector—G. HANDEL JONES (part time Officer).
Other Public Offices held by him—Collector of Rates. Diplomas of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Institute of Hygiene, and British Red Cross Society.

District Nurses—NURSE A. TOLLAND, Q.N., S.R.N.,
13, Sunnyside, Diss. NURSE L. RAYNER, S.C.M., Apsley,
Victoria Road, Diss.

HOSPITAL AND NURSING FACILITIES.

HOSPITALS.

(a) Non-infectious cases. There is no local hospital. Accident and other cases are treated at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.

(b) Infectious Cases. There is no local hospital. Arrangement is made by this Council for emergency cases requiring treatment to be admitted to the City of Norwich Isolation Hospital.

NURSING FACILITIES.

(a) Professional Nursing: General Nursing at the home is given by the District and Maternity Nurses.

(b) Maternity and Child Welfare: A weighing centre is held locally at the Church Hall once a month, when advice is given. The centre is in charge of the District and Maternity Nurses.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

A motor ambulance for non-infectious and accident cases is available locally. This ambulance is provided and maintained by Public and Voluntary subscriptions.

BIRTHS.

Live Births—

Legitimate: Total	Males	Females
26	10	16
Illegitimate:		
5	4	1
—	—	—
31	4	17

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 9.3

Still Births—

Legitimate	Males	Females
1	1	0
Illegitimate		
0	0	0
—	—	—
1	1	0

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) 31.2

DEATHS.

Males 26, Females 34; total 60

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 18.0

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 31.2

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis nil

Deaths from other Puerperal causes 1. Total 1

Death rate of Infants under 1 year:

All infants per 1,000 live births 1

Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births 31.2

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births Nil

Deaths from :	Cancer all ages	5
	Measles ,, ...	Nil
	Whooping Cough	Nil
	Diarrhoea under 2 ...	Nil

WATER SUPPLY.

Up to the end of the year the water supply was not controlled by bacteriological examination. With regard to water storage, attention is directed to the Pumping records which show that increased storage is urgently required.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitary Condition and water supply is satisfactory. One school was closed for a short period owing to the prevalence of influenza.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious diseases have not been prevalent, and the cases that have occurred have been sporadic.

A scheme suggested for the artificial immunisation against diphtheria did not meet the approval of the local medical practitioners as the fees payable were not considered adequate.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

Disease	Total	To Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox.....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Other diseases generally notifiable ...	—	—	—
Other diseases locally notifiable	—	—	—

CANCER :

The deaths from cancer show a slight reduction

Ages	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75
Males	—	—	—	—
Females	2	2	—	1
	—	—	—	—
	2	2	0	1
				Total 5.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1936.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
15		1		1				
25				1				
35								
45	1				1			
55	1				1			
65 upwards					1			
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	1	0	2	3	0	0	0

Ratio of Non Notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths 1-3. Notification appears satisfactory.

NURSES' REPORT FOR 1937

GENERAL NURSING.

Number of Cases Nursed	79
Number of Nursing Visits	3380
Number of Tuberculosis Visits	9
Number of Casual Visits	232

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY.

Number of Midwifery Cases	11
Number of Nursing Visits to these cases	250
Number of Maternity Cases	27
Number of Nursing Visits to these Cases	505
Number of Ante-natal Visits	120

HEALTH VISITING.

Number of Infants visited under 1 year	40
Total number of visits paid these infants	280
Number of children visited over one year and under five	140
Total number of visits paid these children	492

Three mothers have been supplied with milk under the N.C.C. Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

The Infant Welfare Centre held at the Church Hall, each month, has been much better attended.

A. TOLLAND, Q.N., S.R.N.

L. RAYNER, S.C.M.

WATER SUPPLY.—Monthly Pumping Records, 1937.

Month	Pumping Days	Pumping Hours	Quantity of water Raised—Galls.	Average No. of galls raised per hr.	Daily consumption gallons	Lime Quantity used lbs.	Average per 1000 galls in lbs.
January	31	412½	2,350,000	5696.96	75,806.45	6195	2.63
February	28	325	1,950,000	6000.00	69,642.85	4955	2.53
March	31	350	2,100,000	6000.00	67,741.93	5425	2.58
April	30	327	1,962,000	6000.00	65,400.00	4900	2.49
May	31	376½	2,259,000	6000.00	72,870.96	5425	2.40
June	30	420	2,520,000	6000.00	84,000.00	5950	2.36
July	31	399	2,707,500	6784.46	87,338.87	5950	2.19
August	31	370	2,590,000	7000.00	83,548.38	5775	2.23
September	30	344½	2,411,500	7000.00	80,383.33	5575	2.31
October	31	350½	2,453,500	7000.00	79,145.16	5770	2.35
November	30	330	2,310,000	7000.00	77,000.00	5100	2.20
December	31	346	2,422,000	7000.00	78,129.03	5610	2.31
	365	4351	28,035,500	6443.46	76,809.58	66630	2.37

Total weight of Lime used—29 tons 15 cwts. 10 lbs.

The two New Pulsometer Pumps have now been installed and are both working satisfactorily.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1937.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

1. NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS WITH PARTICULARS.

Housing	201
Scavenging	59
Drainage	72
Markets	120
Factories and Workshops	74
Infectious Diseases	20
Slaughterhouses	488
Dairies and Cow-Sheds	70
Vans used for human habitation	31
Inspections in company with M.O.H.	18
Shops	273
Total	1,426

2. NOTICES.

Number of Statutory Notices served	18
Number of Informal Notices served	17
Total	35
Number of Notices complied with	35

3. NUISANCES.

Complaints of Nuisances received	7
Nuisances found on Inspection	14
Total	21
Nuisances abated by Informal Notice.....	3
Nuisances abated by request of officer	18
Total	21

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

(a) DRAINAGE: 1. NEW DRAINAGE.

19 Houses and Premises have been provided with new drainage and connected to the main sewers. 3 Farm-premises have been provided with new drains, and these have been provided with tank and proper overflow disposal.

2. EXTENSION TO EXISTING DRAINAGE.

10 Extensions to drainage at present existing on premises have been made. These extensions have provided for the fixing of Baths, Sinks, and W.Cs., and for the improved drainage of the premises generally.

(b) SEWERAGE : 1. EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING SEWERS.

The sewer at Frenze Road has been extended a further distance of 124 Feet. This extension has enabled the drainage of a further 2 new houses to be connected. This sewer at Frenze Road will allow to be further extended as new property is erected in this area.

2. NEW TANK AND FILTER BED.

The work is now completed of the new receiving Tank with adjacent Filter Bed at Victoria Road on land purchased by the Council from the Diss Co-operative Society, Ltd. This will deal with the Storm-water Sewage Overflow at this point of the sewage system. This has now been functioning during the last 6 weeks and is working efficiently and is in every way satisfactory, and a great improvement.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

1. CONVERSION TO WATER-CARRIAGE SYSTEM, 1937.

(a) Number converted from Privy-Pail Closets	...	Nil
(b) Number converted from Privy-Vault Closets	...	4
		—
Total		4

2. NUMBER OF WATER CLOSETS TO NEW HOUSES.

(a) Bungalows		1
(b) Houses		15
(c) Cottages		Nil
(d) Other houses and premises—improvements, etc.		7
		—
Total		23

3. NUMBER OF CLOSETS OF EACH TYPE REMAINING AT END OF YEAR, 1937.

Number of Privy Vaults, fixed type	110
Number of Pail Closets, Removable Receptacles ...	209
Number of Fresh Water W.Cs.	517
Number of Waste Water W.Cs.	87
Total number of Water W.Cs. connected to the Sewers (both types) including houses, bungalows, factories, schools and public buildings in the district	643

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This work is done by contract, and the work includes the whole of the URBAN area of the district. The only parts of the district omitted is the RURAL area which includes The Heywood and Burston Road, the distance to be covered making this prohibitive, and the cost excessive.

Improvement has been effected during the year in the emptying and cleansing of Closets, etc., by the purchase of a new Sanitary Tumbler Cart, and the working of this has been quite satisfactory.

SCAVENGING.

The Scavenging work is done by Contract, the Contractor working under the direction and supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The Contract provides for the weekly collection and disposal of the contents of Privy Pails and Sanitary Dustbins; the emptying and cleansing of Cesspools and Privy Vault Closets, and Dustbins (fixed receptacles) as and when required.

The Contract does not provide for the removal of trade refuse. This matter is for the persons concerned to make their own arrangements.

The Contract is for a term of three years, dated from 1st October, 1937 and expires 30th September, 1940.

During the year the whole of the equipment and the carts have been overhauled and repaired.

PARTICULARS OF WORK YEAR 1937.

	No. Emptied	Loads Removed
Number of Pail Closets emptied weekly	206	157
Number of Dustbins emptied weekly	602	668
Number of Privy Closets (fixed type) emptied	69	47
Number of Dustbins (fixed type) emptied ...	16	18
Number of Cesspools emptied	15	50
Accumulations of dry refuse	2	2

SUMMARY.

Number of Loads removed: Excreta	254
Ditto ditto Dry refuse	688
Total	942

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

By agreement the powers and duties of enforcing the provisions of Sub-section (3), (4), and (5) of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, are exercised in the Urban District of Diss by the District Council as agents for the Norfolk County Council, under date 2nd October, 1935.

REPORT FOR YEAR 1937.

Number of Inspections and Re-inspections during the year, 1937 273

Particulars of action taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences:—

1. VENTILATION—Section 10, subsection (1) (a).

Number found to be defective	5
Number remedied	5

2. TEMPERATURE—Section 10, subsection (1) (b).

Number found to be defective	5
Number remedied	5

3. SANITARY CONVENIENCES—Section 10, subsection (2).

Number without suitable and sufficient Sanitary Conveniences	2
--	---

Number of applications for a certificate of exemption from the provisions of Sub-section 2 of Section 10 of the Act	2
Number of Certificates exempting issued.....	2

4. GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS :—

4 Shops have been cleaned and painted.	
2 Shops have had the drainage improved.	
2 Shops have had improved lighting.	
Number of reports on routine inspections submitted to the Council during the year	2

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The following particulars are given of gas and electrical appliances used for various purposes in this district in substitution for coal :—

SUMMARY, 1937.

(a) Cooking Purposes :

1. Number of Gas Cookers	778
2. Number of Electric Cookers	98

(b) Heating and Warming Purposes :

1. Number of Gas Fires.....	164
2. Number of Electric Heaters.....	320

(c) Other Appliances :

Gas	201
Electric (Wash Boilers)	5

SECTION D—HOUSING. Year 1937.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	70
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	201
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	12
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	60

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	22

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	22
---	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served, requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made		Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit		Nil
4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, Part IV.—OVERCROWDING :		
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year		11
(2) Number of families dwelling therein		11
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein		78
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year		6
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		7
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...		42
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding		Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report		

NOTE :

There are no cases of overcrowding in any of the houses owned by the Local Authority.

Valuable assistance has been given by various Owners of Cottages in co-operating with the Sanitary Inspector when Cottages owned by them have become void, in letting the tenancy to relieve cases of overcrowding.

In some cases the Owners have made other rooms suitable for occupation, and added them to increase the available accommodation of the house.

There is a slight reduction in the number of overcrowded houses and these should be considerably reduced on completion of the Housing Scheme now in hand.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The number of houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council Houses	Nil
(b) Other Houses	Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Number of cases of Infectious Disease 4

Number of visits made 20

Disinfection has been done on 10 occasions, following cases of infectious disease, and of prolonged illness.

Number of rooms disinfected 13

CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS OF A HOUSE.

Housing Act, 1936 (Section 51) :—

(a) Number of Certificates issued 7

(b) The specified period in each Certificate 5 years

VANS USED FOR HUMAN HABITATION.

31 Vans have been inspected during the year, and all were found in a clean and satisfactory condition.

The matters which have received attention are as follows :

(a) Water Supply.

(b) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

(c) Lavatory Accommodation.

In each case a supply from the Town water service main was made available.

Arrangements were made for the weekly collection of the refuse by the Scavenging Contractor.

Lavatory accommodation was in some cases provided by means of a Pail-lavatory on the Fair Ground, and in other cases by the use of nearby W.Cs. situate on adjacent premises.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Number of registrations in the district :

Retailers of Milk 18

Producers of Milk 12

—
Total 30

Number of " Accredited Producer "	Licences	5
Number of " T.T. "	Licences	1
Total		6

70 Visits were made to Farms and Dairies and 6 visits were made in company with the Medical Officer.

Number of samples taken and submitted for
 " A " technique 27

3 Samples failed the methylene blue test.

Repeat samples were taken, and these passed and complied with the prescribed conditions.

All the " Accredited " Licence producers have upon their premises adequate means of sterilisation by steam. In each case a special plant being installed for this purpose.

During the year the Town main water supply has been extended and two farms have been provided with a piped supply.

Cowsheds on 3 farms have been entirely re-conditioned.

The premises at 1 farm have had improved means of the lighting and ventilation provided.

New drainage has been constructed on the premises of 2 farms.

One farm has had the drainage re-constructed and also extended and improved.

The provision of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, is administered by this Urban District Council, acting as the agents of the County Council. The Sanitary Inspector being the acting Officer.

12 Bulk samples were taken for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli, during the year.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :—

The Slaughterhouses in the district are as follows:

Registered		4
Licensed		1
Total		5

The Licence is subject to annual renewal

1 Slaughterhouse has been re-conditioned.

1 Has been provided with new floor.

1 The drainage has been re-constructed.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924 :—

Number of visits by the Sanitary Inspector to the slaughter-	
houses and shops	488
Number of visits with M.O.H.	2

Total 490

Number of Animals slaughtered :—

Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
651	136	583	2507	3877

Number inspected :—

541	10	575	1183	2309
-----	----	-----	------	------

Meat found unfit for food and surrendered :—

All diseases except Tuberculosis :

Whole carcase : Cattle 1 Pigs 1 Ditto 2

Part carcase : Nil Ditto 7 Total 2

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcase : Cattle 1 Calves 1 Pigs 4 Total 6

MARKETS.

120 Visits of inspection were made to the weekly open market. The inspection included stalls of Fish, Fruit and Vegetables.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

16 Licences to slaughter animals in accordance with the provisions of this Act has been granted.

SPECIAL REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL DURING THE YEAR.

1. Report : Annual Conference of Local Authorities in the Eastern Counties. National Housing and Town Planning Council, held at Great Yarmouth, June 11th, 1937.
2. Report : In reference to the development of the Hall Hills Estate for building purposes on the Roydon Road, DISS, and the proposed system of drainage. Dated 15th November, 1937.
3. Reports: Shops Act, 1934 :—
Report dated 14th August, 1937.
Report dated 23rd December, 1937.

4. Report : Housing Act, 1935.

Report giving particulars and details of the position in respect to Overcrowding as at the 30th January, 1937, and dated 1st February, 1937.

5. Report : Special report upon the administration of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

1. INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES :

Premises	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories	13	Nil
Workshops	61	Nil
Workplaces	Nil	Nil
	—	—
Total	74	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES :

Particulars	Found.	Remedied.
-------------	--------	-----------

Want of cleanliness.....	4	4
Want of ventilation	1	1
Overcrowding	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	2	2

Sanitary Accommodation :

Insufficient	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	1	1
Not separate for sexes	—	—
Other Nuisances	3	3

Total	11	11
-------	----	----

Referred to H.M. Inspector	Nil
----------------------------------	-----

Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted	Nil
---	-----

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108	Nil
--	-----

G. O'B. VINCENT.

